

THE ROANOKE TIMES

OL. XVIII. NO. 125

ROANOKE, VA., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1897.

PRICE 3 CENTS

Bicycles

YOUR OWN PRICE FOR THIS WEEK.

Come and See.

Today, \$5 to \$15.

ROANOKE CYCLE CO.,

108 Salem Avenue.

MR. CALLAHAN'S REPORT MAKES INTERESTING READING.

The Work of the Expert Shows the Treasurer's Office to be Behind to the Amount of \$9,074.75.

BUT IT IS BELIEVED THAT A FINAL SETTLEMENT WILL SHOW THAT NOT A DOLLAR OF THE CITY'S MONEY HAS BEEN MISAPPROPRIATED—EX-AUDITOR NOBLE IS BEHIND TO THE AMOUNT OF \$2,235.87—ALL OTHER CITY OFFICES ARE IN GOOD SHAPE—THE TIMES PRINTS THE REPORT VERBATIM.

We print below a verbatim copy of the report of Expert Callahan, to be presented to the City Council at its meeting Tuesday night.

As to the apparent shortage in the treasurer's office, the report shows that this occurred on account of crediting the treasurer with the school proportion of the delinquent taxes returned. All property is assessed \$1.10 on the \$100 value for city purposes and 15 cents on the \$100 valuation for school purposes. The city charges the treasurer with \$1.10 only; but when the delinquent taxes were returned, both the city and school assessments being listed on the same sheet, he was erroneously given credit by the auditor with \$1.25 on \$100 of the total amount of delinquent taxes returned. It is believed by those best acquainted with the affairs of the treasurer's office that final settlement will show that not a dollar of the public money has been misappropriated.

Roanoke, Va., August 14th, 1897.
To the Finance Committee, Roanoke, Va.:
Gentlemen:—In accordance with your instructions I have made a thorough examination of the books in all the departments of the city government, where the public funds are received and disbursed, and submit the following report, which covers the period from July 1st, 1892, to July 1st, 1897.

CLERK OF COURTS.
I have examined the different accounts of this office as to the collection of taxes on land redeemed and find upon an adjustment of his account \$1.43 in favor of the city, which amount has been paid into the treasury by pay-in warrant No. 402.

Total taxes collected on taxes purchased by the State to May 1st, 1895, is \$10,047.36.
Interest on same, \$883.36.
Less 5 per cent. for collecting, \$546.66.
Paid, \$10,384.06.
Total payment to treasurer May 1st, 1895, \$10,379.63.
Leaving balance, \$4.43.

Since May, 1895, the clerk has used record book for the purpose of entering taxes purchased by the State for the different years, and for each audit he has received a pay-in warrant, and paid same over to the treasurer. There seems to have been considerable delay by the auditor in adjusting this account between the years of 1892 and 1894. These statements are made on separate sheets and some of them do not bear current dates. In fact all statements made by the clerk from 1892 to 1895 were made upon single sheets. I have suggested to the clerk that these sheets be all copied into the book now used by him to have a perfect and complete record at all times of all items of taxes collected by him; this he says he will do: this will give a perfect and complete permanent record of his entire transactions and render any final settlement or adjustment of this account much more satisfactory. I find the payments on the 1892 to 1894 collections somewhat tardy and refer to the recapitulations of the different sheets made up by the late auditor, showing collections from 1889 to April 23, 1894. I file this sheet, signed by him, with this report, which is correct as to totals.

I find the total pay-in warrants issued by the clerk have been credited by the auditor to the different tax accounts purchased by the State, with the exception of \$195.90. On page 44 of the Journal, August, 1894, treasurer's cash account is debited by salaries, \$200, and on page 49, December, 1894, I find treasurer's cash account debited to miscellaneous, rebate on Mayor Trout's salary, \$200, showing two debits to the treasurer's cash account, for the same item, and omitting credit \$199.90 to delinquent taxes for the different years. This difference upon adjustment of the treasurer's cash account, shows difference of 10 cents in the correct balance of auditor's books and treasurer's cash book. I have taken the different reports of the collections made by the clerk and have analyzed each one, and find considerable errors in the distribution of the different accounts, which I have corrected by Journal entry, Journal, page 107, and had your auditor verify same.

I find pay-in warrant No. 87 for \$1,044.59; warrant No. 88 for \$358.45, issued December 10th, 1895, appear on treasurer's cash book as not being paid to him until February, 1896, and pay-in warrants No. 112 for \$940.60, warrant No. 113 for \$1,443.88, dated January 22, 1896, appear on treasurer's cash book as being paid July 16, 1896, and entered under balance as of July 1, 1896, (see page 2, treasurer's new cash book). I find he has been charged with the proper amounts with the following exceptions: School proportion taxes purchased by the State, 1892, \$3,920.63; school proportion taxes purchased by the State, 1893, \$4,166.08; school proportion taxes purchased by the State, 1894, \$4,717.12.

This I have corrected by Journal entries, page 107 of current Journal, and also had your auditor to verify same. The book now kept by the clerk for the entry of delinquent taxes redeemed, is the correct form, and could not, in my opinion, be improved upon for this purpose. His settlements are now being made promptly upon the day designated by the auditor, and same paid into the treasury in accordance with the recent ordinance passed by Council.

TREASURER'S OFFICE.

I have made a detail check of each war-

rant and splits of warrants of the auditor's warrant register to the payment of the same on the treasurer's cash book from July 1st, 1892, to July 1st, 1897, and made corrections of errors and other differences and adjusted the issue of warrants with the payment of same. This I have done by making a complete list of warrants unpaid at the end of each one, two or three months as it was practicable to get a balance on the treasurer's cash book. At the end of each of these periods I have adjusted omissions and duplicated warrants; for instance, at the end of the fiscal year, 1895, the total disbursement of treasurer for fiscal year, as corrected, was \$132,660.57; warrants unpaid and outstanding, as per actual list, \$21,349.30; total, \$154,009.87.

Total warrants issued during fiscal year as per warrant register, as corrected, \$124,268.59; warrants unpaid at commencement of fiscal year, as per actual list, (see treasurer's cash book, page 441, and list of unpaid warrants), \$29,741.26; total, \$154,009.87.

This I have done in each case as above, when I made an adjustment, as the treasurer's cash book will show. I find it almost invariably that the treasurer's cash balance has been carried through his books to be adjusted at intervals to agree with the auditor's balances, without regard to the differences there should be, taking into account the actual unpaid warrants, not charged back to his account, and errors in additions in his book. These differences vary at all times and never the same; for instance, in the balance brought forward on new cash book opened July 1st, 1896, the balance brought over is \$10,633.18, when his actual balance should be \$10,591.23. This I have adjusted at the end of the fiscal year, 1897. (See treasurer's cash book, page 194 and 195-61). The unpaid warrants charged back to the treasurer as of June 30, 1894, (see general ledger, page 68) and auditor shows \$29,680.96; my list by actual check shows \$23,741.28; difference, \$6,000.88.

Auditor's warrant unpaid, as shown by ledger, page 68, \$20,792.44; my list shows warrants unpaid, \$21,349.30; difference, \$556.86.
July 1, 1896, unpaid warrants, as per ledger, page 68, \$16,366.14; my list shows warrants unpaid at this date, as per list, \$16,983.36; difference, \$617.22.
Upon this basis and following out the figures he had to start with, taking up the work with the late auditor, the present auditor on July 1st brings down balance unpaid warrants, ledger, page 68, \$8,908.91. My list shows unpaid warrants to July 1, 1897, to be \$9,558.55; showing difference of \$649.64.

I have also checked by items pay-in warrants on the debit side of the treasurer's cash book, and find them all debited on this book with the exception of pay-in warrant, No. 103, January 13, 1896, to L. Delaney, for street improvements, \$12.75. This amount Mr. Delaney says he paid to Mr. Noble and has witnesses to the payment of same. I have charged the amount to Mr. Noble as per itemized account filed. I have also credited the treasurer's cash account with the amount, as I find no stub on his book from which he gives duplicate receipt, any record of this item.

TREASURER'S COLLECTION ACCOUNT.

I have taken the assessments from 1891 to 1895, inclusive, and have checked this account thoroughly, and find the following corrections to be made: Over credit to treasurer's collection account, on list purchased by State, levy, 1890, (amount of school proportion), \$302.71.

Levy, 1891, amount of school proportion, \$2,574.45.
Delinquent list, levy of 1895, (school proportion), \$4,118.71.
On insolvent list, levy 1895, amount credited, \$8,112.61; should be, \$5,996.35; \$2,116.26.

Total, \$9,172.21.
I find the collection account of the treasurer debited with an excess of levy of 1890, which I credited, \$4.12.
Insolvent list, 1895, I find has not been credited to him at all, \$3,262.88.
Total, \$3,262.88.

These corrections have all been verified by the present auditor.
I have endeavored to get the treasurer to personally go over these items and verify same, but owing to his sickness he has not been able to do so. As the books now stand I find the treasurer's collection account shows an indebtedness to the city of \$20,927.56, composed of the following items:
Due from delinquent levy, 1890, ledger page 342, \$362.79.
Due from delinquent levy, 1891, ledger page 66, \$2,570.33.
Due from city levy, 1892, page 344, \$2,116.26.
Due from city levy, 1894, page 348, \$4,025.37.
Due from city levy, 1895, page 349, \$2,828.15.
Due from delinquent levy, 1895, page 347, \$9,024.60.
Total, \$20,927.55.

TREASURER'S CASH BOOK.
I find upon this book the extensions of additions and footings are almost invariably made in pencil. (See pages 34 and 350.) These figures frequently are very imperfect, either from age or continual handling of the book, which makes it very difficult to check up and adjust his

continued on third page

WANT ROANOKE PROPERTY.

Bristol Syndicate Formed to Buy Delinquent Lands.

There were filed in the office of the clerk of the courts yesterday applications from G. H. Kendrick, of Bristol, to purchase about five hundred pieces of Roanoke property, they being the same that were sold by the city treasurer on December 3, 1894, for delinquent taxes for the year 1893 and bought at said sale by the auditor of public accounts of Virginia for the State and city. He agrees to pay the amount for which said real estate was sold, together with such additional sums as may or would have accrued from taxes and levies, with all interest as provided by law had such real estate not been sold and purchased by the commonwealth. Nearly 200 similar applications have been filed on the same terms by G. H. Kendrick and H. Dorian jointly.

As is generally known, a large portion of the lands adjoining the cities and towns of the State and many lots within them are held by corporations, non-resident speculators and other persons who do not pay the taxes thereon and who have practically abandoned them. To meet this state of affairs and to enable the State to collect its taxes the last legislature passed an act enabling individuals to purchase lands sold for taxes. Herebefore but little faith has been put in tax titles in this State, but a recent decision of the court of appeals in a case which went up from the city of Bristol sustained the tax titles in full. A syndicate was then formed at Bristol to purchase such lands throughout the State. It is composed of G. H. Kendrick, H. G. Dorian and others. They have put in bids for such lands in the principal cities and counties of the State, beside filing bids for practically all the delinquent lands prior to 1892 in this city. These gentlemen have no desire to file or perfect claims for the homes of citizens who may be unable to pay taxes and will not push such claims; but they are going to perfect their titles to the lands of such corporations and non-residents who do not promptly pay the taxes thereon.

Edward Lyle, Esq., has been retained as the local attorney for the syndicate. He has the authority from the company to retain any land filed upon without cost to the owner, as it is not the intention of the syndicate to take advantage of our citizens who may be financially embarrassed.

LEE COMING HOME.

The General Sails For New York Loaded With Information.

Havana, Sept. 4.—Consul General Lee, who has been gathering additional information regarding the condition of the insurgents and Cuban patriots in the interior of the island and also investigating the situation regarding prisoners in Spanish dungeons, sailed this afternoon by Ward Line steamer for New York.
It is understood that General Lee will report at once to the State Department in Washington upon his arrival. He kept his business entirely to himself, but it is believed that he will have something interesting to report to his Government. This report may largely shape the future Cuban policy of the United States.
General Lee was accompanied by his son, and has a month's leave of absence from his post of duty in Cuba.

We will close at 10 a. m. on Monday, Sept. 6. Our patrons will confer a favor by sending in their orders early, so that our young men may take advantage of the holiday. Sandy P. Figgat & Co.

MARTINSVILLE DEMOCRATS.

They Want the Senatorship and Endorse Judge Hairston.

Martinsville, Va., Sept. 4.—(Special).—A mass meeting of the Democrats of Martinsville magisterial district met here at 2:15 p. m. to-day in the courthouse and elected six delegates to the convention to be held at Danville on the 10th instant to nominate a candidate for senator for this district, and also elected delegates to the county convention which assembles here on the 13th of this month to nominate a candidate for the house of representatives from this county. Resolutions were adopted declaring it to be the sense of the meeting that Henry county should be accorded the senatorship and endorsing Judge N. H. Hairston.

You ought to see that Steinway bargain at Hobbie Piano Co.

LOST IN THE LAKE.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Sept. 4.—Forest H. Parker, resident of the Produce Exchange Bank, of New York city, and his wife went rowing this morning. This afternoon the boat was found bottom side up and no trace could be found of the occupants. It is feared they were drowned. Some reports later on say that Parker, his son and his daughter-in-law were lost. They went into camp at Chain Lake this morning.

FIREMAN SUICIDES.

Chicago, Sept. 4.—Lieut. Wm. M. Wright, of the Chicago fire department, was found dead to-day from the effect of poison on the sidewalk of Twenty-second street and South Park avenue. Financial troubles caused his self-destruction. He swallowed carbolic acid.

KRANICH & BACH UPRIGHT PIANO FOR \$225 AT HOBIE PIANO CO.
A Kranich & Bach upright piano, slightly used but almost as good as new, for \$225 on easy payments without interest. Originally sold for \$350. Hobbie Piano Co., Salem Avenue near Commerce street.

YOU NEED NOT WORK IN ANY DEPARTMENT OF THE MACHINE SHOPS ON LABOR DAY, AS NO MAN WILL BE REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAY OFF FOR THE DAY.

DECLARED OFF.

San Francisco, Sept. 4.—The match which had been arranged between Sally Smith and George Dixon to take place in this city has been declared off.

GOLD BY THE TON.

Gov. Brady Corroborates Reports of the Rich Finds.

Washington, Sept. 4.—John G. Brady, governor of Alaska, has sent to Secretary Bliss a personal letter, in which he gives some interesting facts about the rush for the Klondike region. Governor Brady has been identified with Alaskan interests most of his lifetime, and is known to be very conservative in his opinions. Writing from Juneau, he says:

"Steamers are passing daily for Dyea and Skagway, loaded to the utmost with passengers and supplies. The news 'just out of Klondike by reliable men is calculated to raise the excitement to a higher pitch. The shipment of dust by the mouth of the Yukon will be all of two and a half tons. Rich finds have been made well up on the sides of the mountains, and the old saying that 'gold is where you find it, and silver runs in veins,' seems to be emphasized in that district."

WILL BE EXPENSIVE.

Col. Pope Says the Chainless Wheel Will Not supersede the Present One.

New York, Sept. 4.—Col. Pope, president of the Columbia Bicycle Company, arrived from abroad to-day the picture of health. He says his foreign trip had no trade significance. The trade was demoralized across the water, and many small dealers have succumbed.

As to chainless wheels, Mr. Pope says he cannot give full information until the proper time arrives, but he states that it will be a very expensive article and will not, therefore, supersede the present wheel. The reduction in the price of Columbias caused almost a panic in bicycle stocks abroad by compelling the reduction in price to the smallest margin over the cost of the product.

PROMPTED BY INSANITY.

Columbus, O., Sept. 4.—The warning letter received by Mayor Black to the effect that a plot existed to assassinate President McKinley while on a visit here is regarded as having come from a patient in some insane asylum. The note was written on manilla paper in lead pencil and signed with unintelligible characters. It is stated that the plot originated to make way with the President because of his appointment of Powderly as commissioner of immigration. The plot was not favorable to the principles of anarchy but was for organized labor against monopoly. Mayor Black and Postmaster Williams were at first disposed to regard it as a hoax, but in order to forestall any attempt, if the plot really existed, detailed detectives to guard the Presidential party from the moment it left the special train to the time it departed for Canton.

DEATH OF MISS BURGESS.

Winchester, Sept. 4.—Miss Virginia Burgess died this morning of paralysis. She was apparently enjoying good health up to a few hours before her death. Miss Burgess was a daughter of the late James H. Burgess, of this city, and had resided here most of her life. She was for many years an able assistant of the Rev. Dr. J. P. Hyde, president of the Valley Female College.

RICHMOND TEAM SOLD.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 4.—Clarence Boykin and Charles Donald, of this city, have bought the Richmond baseball team of the Atlantic League from Mr. Bradley.

KILLED IN A MINE.

Glenwood Springs, Colo., Sept. 4.—An explosion occurred here this evening in the Sunshine coal mine, near here. Nine bodies have already been recovered.

The New Hat.

DROP IN AND SEE THE NEW HAT WHICH STYLE HAS DECIDED. I HAVE THEM IN ALL SHADES AND PRICES.

D. M. TAYLOR,
SUCCESSOR TO GILKESON & TAYLOR,
HATTERS AND FURNISHERS.

THE RECORD REDUCED.

Worcester, Mass., Sept. 4.—John R. Gentry, the ex-champion pacer of the world, who was beaten yesterday by Star Pointer, to-day reduced the track record from 2:10 to 2:06 at the fair grounds.

A CONVICT KILLED.

Dallas, Tex., Sept. 4.—A party of convicts working under State guards attempted to escape to-day at a point about twenty miles east of this city in Hunt county. The guards fired on the convicts, killing John Gilman, a noted highwayman, who was serving a 25-years sentence, and wounding two others. This had a tendency to subdue the balance of the gang.

A FATAL HOLD-UP.

Mansfield, O. Sept. 4.—There was a hold attempt to hold up a passenger train near here this afternoon, in which one man was killed. Further details are lacking.

BALD WAS DEFEATED.

Manhattan Cycle Track, N. Y., Sept. 4.—The one-third of a mile professional race this afternoon was won by O. S. Kimball, of Louisville, Ky.; E. C. Bald, of Buffalo, second; L. R. Jefferson, of Ashbury Park, N. J., third; Tom Cooper, of Detroit, fourth. Time not given.

A good square piano for \$75 on \$5 per month at Hobbie Piano Co.

The fall session of the National Business College, including the Business, Shorthand and Typewriting, the Normal English and Preparatory English courses, will open Tuesday, September 7th.

FRIGHTFUL EXPLOSIONS.

Five Men Killed Outright and Thirty Seriously Injured.

TWO EXPLOSIONS OF NATURAL GAS IN AN INDIANA TOWN SPREAD DEATH AND DESTRUCTION—BUILDINGS WERE BLOWN DOWN AND FIVE MEN WERE BURIED IN THE RUINS—FIVE BUILDINGS WERE ON FIRE AT ONE TIME.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 4.—Two frightful explosions of natural gas occurred at Broad Ripple to-day. This is a suburb six miles north of this city.

Five are known to be killed and the seriously injured number about thirty. The business part of the town took fire and many of the largest buildings were destroyed.

The dead are: Plus Gresh, grocer, aged 19, burned to death; Jacob Darling, painter, crushed by falling walls; Charles Yountz, sing'er, aged 35, found dead in the ruins of the grocery store. Two unknown bodies were also found burned to a crisp.

The city of Indianapolis was called on for help and at once sent fire engines and doctors.

The first explosion occurred in the drug store of J. L. Watts, from some unknown cause. Fire at once broke out and five men were seriously injured there.

Across the street was the Odd Fellows Hall, on the ground floor of which was Plus Gresh's grocery store. Seeing the fire spreading, Gresh and twenty other men at once began removing the stock of groceries and while so doing a crushing explosion occurred in that building. The walls were blown out and the upper floors fell in on the whole crowd of men.

Gresh and Jacob Darling were taken out dead and the others in the building at the time were badly injured, several of them possibly fatally. Nearly every one of them had broken arms or legs.

The fire spread from Odd Fellows Hall and the drug store ruins in every direction. Five buildings were on fire at once and were doomed to destruction before help could be summoned.

The entire community turned out and there was work for all to do toward rescuing the injured, who were now threatened with death by fire.

Hurried calls for help were sent to this city. The hospital dispensary doctors took the first Broad Ripple car out and the fire department loaned engines on a Monon road flat car and left at once for the scene of the fire.

DEADLY NITRO-GLYCERINE.

Monongahela, Pa., Sept. 4.—By an explosion of nitro-glycerine this morning two men and a horse were killed and a buggy completely demolished on a bridge crossing the Monongahela river at this place.

The bridge was so badly damaged that it will have to be abandoned until repairs are made. Windows in the vicinity were smashed within a radius of a mile and residents of the town were startled by the concussion. One of the men is believed to have been Charles P. Rankin, formerly superintendent of the Watson Mining Company. It is supposed the men had the nitro-glycerine in the buggy and that a sudden jar caused the explosion. They were blown to atoms and beyond recognition.

TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING, WE DESIRE TO NOTIFY ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE MACHINE SHOPS THAT THEY NEED NOT WORK ON LABOR DAY, AS A POSITIVE ASSURANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT NO MAN NEED WORK UNLESS SO INCLINED.

If you want clean coal and honest weight order from
EAKMAN & FLIPOPO,
Phone 68. 108 Salem Avenue S. W.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Virginia: Fair; slightly cooler; northerly winds.

Established, 1881.

Hobbie Piano Co.

Old and Reliable.

Will Guarantee Factory Prices on

Pianos and Organs

They represent Standard Instruments of the Highest Grades.

Easy Payments. No Interest.

FOR THE SCHOOL CHILDREN!

Buy your School Books where you get most for your money.

With every purchase we will give you a good school blotter.

With every purchase of 5 cents, or over, we will give you a good school ruler and blotter.

With every purchase of 25 cents, or over, we will give you a good blotter, a good ruler and a good book strap.

Our prices on School Books will be the same as those adopted by the State Board of Education.

With every purchase you get something FREE.

THE FISHBURN CO.,

No. 10 Campbell Avenue W.

BARGAINS.

One slightly used upright piano, full size, good as new; sold one year ago for \$350; now \$225 on easy payments.

One good second-hand Knabe Square Piano, \$50.00—easy payments.

Good, slightly used organ, \$25.00—easy payments.

Call while we have these bargains. It will pay you.

J. E. ROGERS & CO.,

No. 11 S. Jefferson street.

THE UNION WHITEHEAD

—Is undoubtedly the handsomest wheel in Roanoke.

—It's as good as it looks.

—JOHN HANNA thought

—enough of it to buy it, and he

—ought to know a good thing.

—For terms see

TOM L. ENGBLEY,

AT

ENGBLEY BRO. & CO.

THE NEGRO FAILED.

Easy Solution of the Color Question at the Naval Academy.

Annapolis, Md., Sept. 4.—R. C. Bundy, the negro candidate from Ohio, has failed in his examination for admission into the United States Naval Academy. He was deficient in spelling and also failed in mathematics. It is not believed that he will take a re-examination in mathematics. He took a re-examination in spelling to-day, but no report has been made upon that yet.

A "WONDER." A "WONDER."

We are agents for the celebrated Wonder Airtight Stove. This is the only stove with a perfect hot air draft. Don't place your fall orders until you have seen them. OVERSTREET & THURMAN, The Furniture Dealers, 18 and 20 Campbell Avenue.

For clean coal 'Phone III, or call on C. M. Armes, 111 Jefferson street.